

## PHYTOPHTHORA LEAF BLIGHT OF FLOWERING DOGWOOD, *CORNUS FLORIDA* L.<sup>1</sup>

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*Cornus florida* L. is a small tree up to 35-ft. tall with clustered, petal-like, white or cream-colored bracts. Flowering in the spring, it is grown as a popular ornamental (3). Its wide distribution includes southeastern Maine to southern Michigan, generally southward to central Florida, west to southern Missouri and eastern Texas. Flowering types with pink bracts are rarely cultivated in the southern part of its range, presumably because it is not adapted to this area (3).

**CAUSAL AGENT AND DISTRIBUTION:** *Phytophthora nicotianae* Breda de Haan var. *parasitica* (Dastur) G. M. Waterhouse, alternatively designated as *Phytophthora parasitica* Dastur (1,6,7) was recently established as the cause of leaf blight of flowering dogwood. This fungus has an extensive host range (2) and is able to overwinter in soil and plant debris (4).

**SYMPTOMS:** The disease is characterized by scattered, rapidly enlarging, irregular, brown, water-soaked lesions with characteristic gray-green borders. Symptom development occurs particularly during and immediately following periods of heavy rains and high relative humidity (Fig. 1).

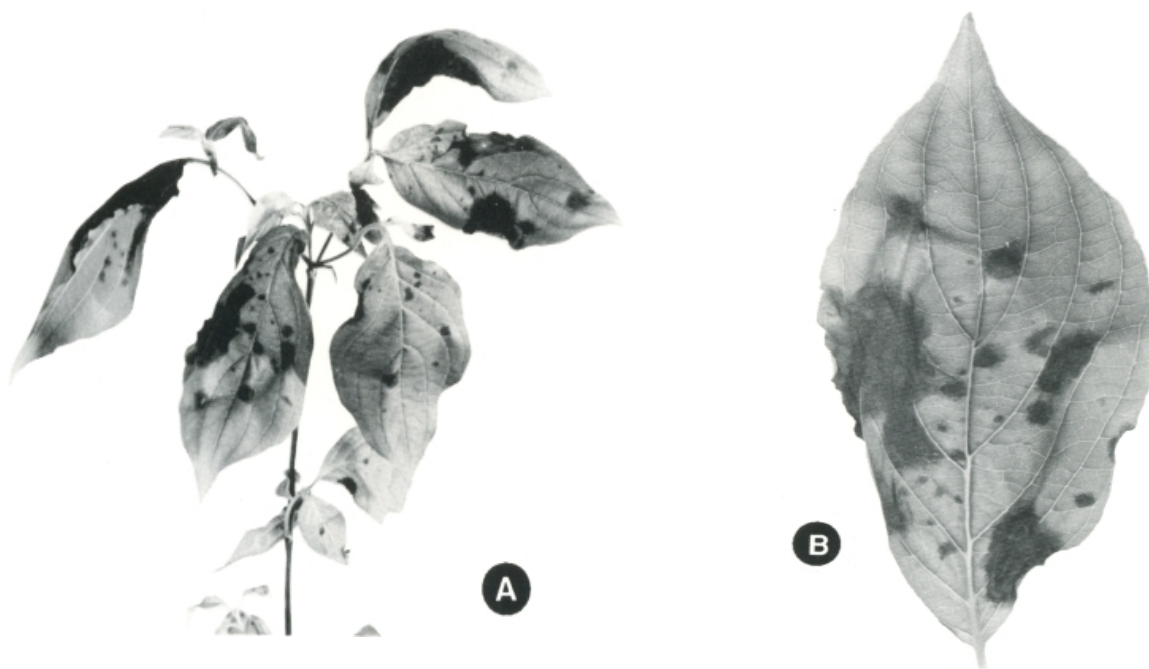


Fig. 1. Scattered distribution of lesions on blighted leaves of flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, following 3 days incubation in a moist chamber after inoculation with  $1.5 \times 10^7$  zoospores/ml of *Phytophthora nicotianae* var. *parasitica*. A) Leaf blight on 1-yr-old seedling; B) Close-up of blighted leaf. (DPI File #702192, Jane Windsor).

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**CONTROL:** The 1993 Florida Plant Disease Control Guide recommends Subdue 2E (25.1%) or 2%G applied according to manufacturer's label directions as a control for *Phytophthora* spp. (5).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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